

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-16

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2521

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF

SUBJ: FIRST JORDANIAN PRESS COMMENT ON SECRET PROTOCOL

TO ALEXANDRIA AGREEMENT

1. JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED DAILIES AD-DUSTOUR AND AR-RAYY SEP 24 BOTH COMMENT ON AL-AHRAM'S SEPT 23 DENUNCIATION OF JORDANIAN "FREEZE" COMMUNIQUE, AD-DUSTOUR ACCUSES AL-AHRAM OF "DISTORTION AND LIES", SUCH AS THOSE IMPLYING THAT JORDANIAN MOVE PROMPTED BY RUMORS OF ARMS DEAL WITH SOUTH AFRICA. PAPER FURTHER MENTIONS "THE SECRET AGREEMENTS CLARIFYING THE TERMS OF THE ALEXANDRIA COMMUNIQUE", AND STATES THAT CAIRO COMMUNIQUE COMPLETELY UNDERMINES THESE UNDERSTANDINGS.

2. AR-RAI, OFFICIAL GOJ PAPER, TAKES THEME ONE STEP FURTHER. "WHY SHOULD AL-AHRAM BE ASTONISHED BY THE JORDANIAN STATEMENT WHEN CAIRO WAS THE FIRST

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TO LICK ITS SIGNATURE OFF THE ALEXANDRIA AGREE-

MENT?...MOREOVER, AL-AHRAM SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE SPECIAL AGREEMENTS WHICH WERE SIGNED BY THE JORDANIAN PRIME MINISTER AND THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER. THE CONTENTS OF THESE AGREEMENTS WILL CERTAINLY BE DISCLOSED IN DUE TIME IN ORDER TO CLARIFY JORDAN'S STAND...."

3. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST PUBLIC MENTION OF THE "PROTOCOL" IN JORDAN. WE SUSPECT IT WAS DESIGNED TO TRY TO PUT EGYPTIANS ON NOTICE THAT JORDAN CONSIDERED ITSELF FREE TO RELEASE OR LEAK THE DOCUMENT WHICH IT CONSIDERS SUPPORTS ITS OWN CASE ON MEANING AND INTERPRETATION OF ALEXANDRIA COMMUNIQUE.

PICKERING

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